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Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of)

Masaru OHKUBO, et al.)

Serial Number 09/695,231)

Filed: October 25, 2000)

For: AUTOMATIC VENDING MACHINE)
HAVING A CONTROL SYSTEM)
CAPABLE OF EASILY AND RELIABLY)
REWRITING A CONTROL PROGRAM)
IN EACH TERMINAL CONTROL UNIT)

Group Art Unit: 2144

Examiner: Nguyen, T.

Attorney Reference: 000407.00004

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

The Office Action mailed June 25, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and, in view of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.